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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,163	08/05/2003	Takashi Koase	59694 (47793)	1751

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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, VICKY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/635,163

Applicant(s)

KOASE ET AL.

Examiner

Vicky A. Johnson

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I claims 1-7 in the reply filed on May 20, 2005 is acknowledged. Claims 8 and 9 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, a radius of said axis of said auxiliary roller near the center of said axis in its axial direction is larger than a radius of said axis of said auxiliary roller at its other part in its axial direction, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate

changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 71, 690. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "942" has been used to designate both the fixing projection and a second member (unknown) see Fig 5. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid

abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 16 line 4 "member 92" should be --member 72--; on page 19 line 1 "liking" should be --linking--; on page 20 lines 21 and 31 the "contacting unit" is designated by 924 and 944. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1 it is unclear what is meant by the limitation "said auxiliary roller hold".

In claim 4 it is unclear what is meant by the "said pulley becomes to be engaged". For this office action the limitation will be interpreted as "said pulley becomes engaged".

In claim 5 it is unclear how the distance from the centers of the roller and the pulley can be shorter than the sum of the radius of the roller, the radius of the pulley, and the width of the belt.

In claim 6 it is unclear how an axis can have a radius. It is also unclear what is being claimed in claim 6. Neither the specification nor the drawings adds any further information regarding this feature. Is the pulley eccentric?

In claim 7, it is unclear how the holding unit holds the axes and it is also unclear what is meant by "said pulley is hold" and "said auxiliary roller is hold".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakagaki (JP 2001-063866) in view of Okiyama et al (US 5,991,575), as best understood.

Nakagaki discloses a device comprising: a toothed pulley (25); an endless toothed belt (28) wound on said pulley, wherein a first surface of said toothed belt comprises teeth corresponding to teeth of said pulley and a second surface of said toothed belt is substantially smooth (see Fig 2); an auxiliary roller (32) for holding said toothed belt in a gap defined by said pulley and said auxiliary roller (see Fig 2); a roller holding unit (31) for holding said pulley and said auxiliary roller to be able to respectively

rotate on axes of said pulley and said auxiliary roller and maintaining said gap between said pulley and said auxiliary roller (see Fig 2).

Nakagaki does not disclose an urging member for urging said roller holding unit in a direction to said toothed belt around said pulley in order for said auxiliary roller hold by said roller holding unit to provide a tension to said toothed belt.

Okiyama et al disclose an urging member (17L) for urging said roller holding unit (16L) in a direction to said toothed belt around said pulley in order for said auxiliary roller hold by said roller holding unit to provide a tension to said toothed belt (see Fig 3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Nakagaki to included an urging member as taught by Okiyama et al in order to prevent belt skew.

Re claim 2, Nakagaki shows the driving pulley (25) and it is inherent that it is coupled (directly or indirectly) to a motor.

Re claim 3 Nakagaki shows said auxiliary roller provides said tension to said toothed belt at an engagement end point where said pulley is disengaged from said toothed belt when said toothed belt is rotated in a forward direction (see Fig 2).

Re claim 4, Nakagaki shows said engagement end point is a point where said pulley becomes to be engaged with said toothed belt when said toothed belt is rotated in a reverse direction (see Fig 2).

Re claim 7, Nakagaki shows said roller holding unit holds said axes of said pulley and said auxiliary roller by inserting therein said axes (see Fig 2), a first cut-in portion and a second cut-in portion is formed on said roller holding unit (see Fig 2).

Re claims 5 and 6, the patentability of claims 5 and 6 cannot be determined because it is unclear what is being claimed.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


6,485,207 Allen et al (tensioner)

6,628,909 Monahan et al (tensioner)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7106. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:00a-3:30p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on (571) 272-7099. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Vicky A. Johnson 6/24/05
Examiner
Art Unit 3682